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Furs J. Wolf

The Name of Authority in Furs

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Column One David Courtney

ONE way and another there are curious goings-on in the Middle East just now: more specifically in the East Mediterranean. What they amount to is a matter for guesswork. The diplomats themselves are not quite sure they appear to be edging away from the collective patterns commonly expected of them, into more adventurous designs. What the designs may be, I repeat, pure guesswork: even those in a position to look over the diplomats' shoulders see only the agile fingers, the poised needle with its coiled thread, the cloth with its tentative pale-blue tracings.

THERE is coming, of course, a remarkable change in the disposition of the East Mediterranean-Middle East area. Asia, or at any rate the Asiatic dominions of Turkey, are being hauled into Europe. The cold, green Atlantic rollers will crash and surge along both shores of the Bosphorus; and Taurus, so to speak, will be piled on Pyrenees. The Greeks, too, are to be lifted from their Balkan obscurity and set down among the teeming Atlantic parade; leaving, if these developments were all, and even taking into account the proposed Middle East Command, an almost threadbare regionalism. For the Middle East Command will be, in effect, almost wholly Arab: Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia—a more effective Arab League; armed, paid for, watched over, by the four fathering Powers.

THE omission is quite as conspicuous as any of the inclusions; and here it is, perhaps, that one may say the faint outlines of a new design. Israel, the omission, cannot sit in loneliness. Who but the Arabs would want it to sit in loneliness with its excellent and numerous army? The newspaper strategists of London and New York hardly ever miss an opportunity to thrust to Israel's policy. In spite of the big Atlantic parade, there is still, say the reckonings, a famine in soldiers; and good armies are not to be sneezed at. Therefore, it is not improbable that the diplomats, with their needles and threads, are thinking out a new and pretty pattern in which Israel will fit more neatly and appropriately than it could fit, under any of the several disguises hinted at, in, say, SACME. It is, at least, an engaging subject for guesswork.

FROM Israel's point of view it is not only, or singularly, a military matter. It is also a matter of trade, prestige, companionship, good fortune generally. Quite obviously it will be a very long time before the Israeli and the Arab make friends, and if Israel can make friends somewhere else with-in, for example, the more spacious regionalism of the Mediterranean she has every right to do so. There is good fellowship between Israel and Greece. There is more than an unattached rumour of moves to bring Israel and Italy deeper into each other's confidences. These things start quietly and gently, with a good deal of sly sining-up to begin with, and perhaps nothing spectacular in the way of bond for a few weeks or months.

GREECE, we know, wants something in addition to its place at NATO; and would like a neighbourly arrangement with Yugoslavia, who sent a General Staff man to attend the Turco-Greek parleys in Ankara the other day. The common Thracian frontier of Greece and Turkey would be very hard to defend without Yugoslav's help. So the pattern grows. The diplomatic needle is thrust in and drawn out and the pretty colours stitch by stitch move over the cloth. It would really not be surprising to see, one day, the pale blue of Israel threaded among them.

Tel Aviv, February 14.

Work Better & Produce More

The problem of Israel's economic situation is very simple: "We have to work better, produce more and adapt our consumption to production." Finance Minister Eliazar Kaplan told reporters in Jerusalem yesterday. Mr. Kaplan and Mr. David Horowitz, the Ministry's Director-General, were on hand to brief the press on the implications of the Government's new economic measures as outlined yesterday in the Knesset by the Prime Minister.

The new measures were discussed in four categories: exchange rates and prices; inflation; taxes and standard of living; the country's development; its budget and finances.

While the dollar-for-Pound rate of exchange will go in for such imports as building materials, fuel (except kerosene), machinery, textiles and leather, nevertheless the sale of some products made from these materials (like work clothes and shoes, baby napkins etc.) will be pegged at a lower exchange rate, IL.1-to-£1.40. To make up the difference between the higher purchase price and the lower sale price of such utility goods, a portion of the proceeds realized from the sale of non-utility items at the dollar-for-Pound rate will be diverted into the subsidy fund.

Foreign travel, books, gifts of money and earnings from abroad will be calculated at the dollar-for-Pound rate. Money allocated for study abroad will also fall into this category. Thus, parents of a student from Israel studying in the U.S. will pay IL.180 for his \$150 monthly allowance instead of IL.54 as hitherto.

Institutions whose income is based on foreign contributions which will now be exchanged at the rate of IL.1-\$1.40 will be obliged to turn

over to the Treasury their entire foreign-currency income. For purchases and expenditures abroad, they will be obliged to seek special foreign currency allocations and import licences.

The Government plans no single rate-of-exchange for goods purchased from the U.S. Grant-in-Aid. According to the contemplated arrangement, which has not yet been approved, goods will be paid for in Israeli currency on the basis of the category in which the various products fall—\$2.80 per Pound for cereals, sugar and fats; \$1.40 for the list of goods in that category, and \$1 for the third class. The same is true for purchases with proceeds of foreign loans and the Israel Independence Bonds.

Inflation and Taxes

Whereas effects of the new programme of the cost-of-living index can only be determined by experience, Mr. Horowitz said, sober estimates "do not indicate a very sharp rise in the index." He added that no new amendments to the Income Tax Bill now before the Knesset Finance Committee are to be proposed. Inflation was being tackled by attempting to restore a balance between the goods and services available and money available. The anticipated rise in prices was not in itself inflationary, he added.

Also under Finance Committee consideration is the question of institution of a sales tax. In place of the present uniform luxury tax, a sales tax of up to 7.5 per cent would be levied on purchases of non-luxury goods, while a luxury tax exceeding the present 35 per cent maximum would be levied on luxury items.

In reply to a question, Mr. Kaplan stated that some unemployment might result

from the new measures, but that the Government was confident that the economy would adjust itself. He said that the Government was not aware of any specific foreign aid plans to Congress about March 1.

These sources discounted reports that the recommendations for Israel will be \$100m.

Before leaving, Mr. Kaplan said that the Government's new economic policy would improve the situation here and would be a good impression abroad, especially in America. He said that the Government's policy was to improve the situation here and would be a good impression abroad, especially in America.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 3

Truce Talks On POW Question Nearer Accord

PANMUNJOM, Thursday (Reuters). — Korea negotiators were reported today to be closer on details connected with the prisoner exchange to take place if an armistice is agreed upon.

However, a re-worded Communist exchange plan showed no change in their stand against the Allied plan that prisoners should be free to choose between staying where they are and being repatriated.

A U.N. spokesman reported this after today's meeting of Staff officers.

Before today's talks, Staff officers arranged a plenary session of chief negotiators for next Saturday to hear the new plan for recommendations to governments, promised by the Communists.

Delegates disagree on the scope of recommendations to be made to governments involved. The U.N. insist they must refer only to Korea. The Communists have promised to revise their earlier proposals which called for consideration of all matters outside Korea affecting a peace settlement.

The U.N. spokesman reported that the Communists had agreed to the U.N. plan to hold free talks of the Red Cross, but insisted that the Communists should not be bound by the U.N. plan.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 3

Details of Economic Policy Not Yet Clear

TEL AVIV, Thursday. — Reaction here today to the Government's economic measures was mixed and confused. There was a patent interest in the announcement and much speculation as to how the measures would affect persons in different walks of life. Not only the man in the street, however, but also leaders of finance and industry were confused about details of the scheme.

This confusion resulted in caution which was reflected in the Stock Exchange where trade today was described as "hesitant." There were more buyers than sellers. The black market quotations for currency rose; the dollar from IL.3 to IL.3.25 and the Sovereign from IL.28 to IL.30.500.

Banks suspended trading in dollar-linked securities, such as the Government's Tzvi Dollar and the Jewish Agency's Mifal Leumi. The Government had indicated that coupons would be paid off on these securities at the rate of \$1.40, but bankers felt the rate should be \$1. They held up transactions on securities offered for sale and advised clients they would wait for new instructions.

Unanimous support was voiced for the anti-inflation measures, such as the balancing of the ordinary and security budgets and the administrative retrenchment scheme, but critics of the Government said they did not believe the plan to dismiss 1,000 civil servants would be carried through.

Good Scheme in Theory

A leading industrialist, who stands to benefit from the plan to boost efficient industries at the expense of the outmoded plants, said that theoretically it was a good scheme, but that in a country of immigration one should think twice before forcing enterprises to close down.

Bankers were critical of the order that importers must make up the difference between the old and the new exchange rate in cases where funds had already been released for certain goods which were not cleared.

One industrialist complained that the currency reforms meant that the real value of capital declined, because replacements would cost double or triple.

A builder said that the relaxation of non-payment import regulations would probably increase the flow of materials. He said the factor in determining the cost of building would be wages which are now 70 per cent of the cost of construction in cases where materials are supplied at official prices. The rate of exchange for building materials would not affect building much, because most of the construction was Government and institutional, and the exchange rate was therefore a matter of bookkeeping.

Before leaving, Mr. Kaplan today on his way back to the U.S. Mr. A. Dickstein, Director of Animal (the Zionist Movement) organization in the U.S. said he thought the Government's new economic policy would improve the situation here and would be a good impression abroad, especially in America.

Continued on Page 2, Col. 3

High-Level Parley Held in Tokyo

TOKYO, Thursday. — Mr. U. Johnson, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affairs, met with General Matthew Ridgway and Vice Admiral C. Turner Joy, senior U.N. truce negotiator, in a high-level conference today, which was also attended by the Vice Army Chief of Staff, General John Hull.

They presumably discussed the Korean armistice talks. The conference was regarded as significant because of Mr. Johnson's position as top aid to Mr. John Allison, new Assistant Secretary for Far Eastern Affairs in the State Department.

E. Germans Appeal For Peace Treaty

BONN, Thursday (Reuters). — The East German Government's appeal for an early German peace treaty, conveyed today in three identical letters to the three Western Commandants in Berlin, is being forwarded to Control Commission Headquarters in Bonn by the British Commandant. It is not being sent to the British Government, as Britain does not recognize the East German Government, a British official said.

The appeal was addressed to the four occupation powers. Another letter was sent to the West German government.

The East German Prime Minister, Otto Grotewohl, told foreign and German reporters that the planned West German contribution to European defence was the main reason for the appeal.

Chancellor Adenauer, before leaving for London for the funeral of King George, declared: "A peace treaty which restores the unity of Germany and guarantees its independence, freedom and security, has always been and remains the goal of the West German Government."

The all-German Affairs Committee of the West German Parliament, after discussing the appeal at a three-hour meeting today, said free and democratic elections through-out Germany must come before discussion of a peace treaty.

Western observers saw the appeal as an attempt to influence the talks of the new Western Foreign Ministers, due to begin in London on Saturday.

At the press conference, Premier Adenauer said that the appeal was not a demand for a peace treaty, but a demand for a free and democratic Germany. He said that the appeal was not a demand for a peace treaty, but a demand for a free and democratic Germany.

New Paris Crisis Over Army Policy

PARIS, Thursday (Reuters). — France was today on the edge of another cabinet crisis after Premier Faure had decided to strike the existence of his one-year-old Government on approval of his European Army policy.

After more than three days debate the national Assembly adjourned today, after M. Faure had announced that the vote on the European defence community would be a confidence vote.

The Assembly meets on Saturday afternoon to vote on a Government resolution confirming the general lines of present French policy on the European Army.

The Socialist National Executive will meet Saturday morning. Leading Socialists, including the former Defence Minister, M. Moch, were adamant in their demand—rejected by the Government—that a final decision on German rearmament should be postponed until the U.N. disarmament committee had reported in June.

With Gaullists and Communists to vote against the Government, Parliamentarians observed that if the executive council failed to approve the plan, M. Faure's Cabinet would fall.

Government quarters held the latest London conference, and real financial assistance due to be discussed by the Council, might produce a last-minute decision from the Socialists to support the Government.

Predict Israel to Get \$65m. in U.S. Aid

WASHINGTON, Thursday (UP). — Usually well-informed sources predicted yesterday that the Administration will recommend Israel receive approximately \$65m. during the fiscal year beginning next July 1. President Truman is expected to include this request when he sends his specific foreign aid plans to Congress about March 1.

These sources discounted reports that the recommendations for Israel will be \$100m.

Germans in Egypt Army, Bonn Official Admits

Egypt Vows to Restore Order; Grants LE5m. to Riot Victims

CAIRO, Thursday. — Egypt has assured 15 nations which had protested against the riots of January 26 of her "firm determination to restore public order and tranquility everywhere, to pursue relentlessly the instigators and re-create that atmosphere of calm and security necessary for everyone to resume peacefully his normal activities."

In identical notes released by the Foreign Ministry today—a different note is understood to have been sent to Britain—the Government deplored the events and losses incurred. The notes added that the Government will open a credit of LE2m. in aid of wrecked establishments.

The notes were sent to Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, France, Greece, India, Italy, the Netherlands, Persia, Poland, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey and the U.S.

Premier Ali Maher Pasha today ordered universities in Cairo and Alexandria to remain closed. The Minister of Education yesterday ordered their reopening on Saturday.

Meanwhile, an official announcement published in Cairo this evening decreed the transfer of jurisdiction over the training of "Liberation Battalions" and other volunteer groups from the Ministry of State to the Prime Minister, who will now be the supreme authority responsible for the training of these groups.

This announcement also stated that all these groups will from now on be incorporated as a regular part of the Egyptian Reserve Army. It stressed that no military training of youths will be tolerated outside this framework.

The Premier was said by the newspaper "Al Akhbar" today to be studying the possibility of a Middle East Defence pact, conforming to U.N. patterns, as part of any settlement with Britain.

It foreshadowed "a special defence plan to be presented by Egypt as a counter-proposal to the four-power Middle East plan."

The Egyptian Cabinet met in Cairo today for four hours. After the meeting Ali Maher told Cairo Radio that the Cabinet had reviewed the grave financial situation in the country resulting from the L.E.2m. deficit in the 1951-52 Egyptian budget. He said that the most drastic measures in cutting down expenses are required. (Reuters, Cairo Radio)

Sharett Sees Eden, Queen in London

LONDON, Thursday. — Mr. Sharett was received this afternoon by Mr. Eden in what was described as "a courtesy call" after arriving in London for the funeral of King George VI tomorrow. After meeting Mr. Eden, Mr. Sharett and the Israeli Minister in London, Mr. Eliazar, visited the young Queen.

Mr. Sharett, on behalf of the President and people of Israel, expressed his profound sympathy to Queen Elizabeth over her loss.

Mr. Eden today saw other visiting Foreign Ministers, including those of Spain and Portugal. This was the first time the Foreign Ministers of Britain and Spain had met since before the war.

Queen's Last Tribute

Queen Elizabeth II stood silently in a doorway tonight—unannounced and unnoticed—and joined with thousands of her people in paying a final tribute to her father.

The young Queen broke with tradition in by-passing a state banquet, customarily given for distinguished mourners on the eve of a British king's funeral, and instead went to Westminster Hall where George VI lay in state.

Elizabeth and her younger sister, Margaret, neither wearing a veil, stood for 10 minutes in the shadows of the Star Court entrance to the Hall to watch the slow moving procession past the catafalque.

Five Kings, three Presidents and new Princes had arrived in London by tonight for the funeral. A vast crowd of humanity was still filing past the King's coffin tonight.

(INA, Reuters, AP)

Oil Accord Ratified By Iraqi Parliament

The Iraqi Parliament last night ratified the new oil agreement with the three British Companies operating in the country, ANA reported.

The Government won a majority in the House in spite of the opposition of four Iraqi political parties.

The new agreement which now comes into force gives the Iraqi Government a 50 per cent net profit from the income of the oil companies. The opposition parties demanded a 50 per cent share in the crude oil extracted.

The five initial (Independence) Party members who resigned in protest against the agreement three days ago did not attend. The Socialist People's Party members, who opposed the agreement because it was "unjust" to Iraq, withdrew in protest before the vote was taken.

The subject may nonetheless have been during informal talks between Mr. Eden and West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, which are likely to be held in the coming days. It may also be raised by Mr. Moshe Sharett, who is seeing Mr. Eden this afternoon.

Britain, Canada, U.S. to Pool Resources in Building Jets

LONDON, Thursday (Reuters). — Britain, Canada and the U.S. have agreed to combine resources to produce, equip and man squadrons of American type F-86 Sabrejet fighters under the NATO partnership, the Air Ministry announced last night.

The announcement, made simultaneously also in Washington, Ottawa and Ottawa, said that a Canadian plant would build F-86 Sabres.

Secretary of State Dean Acheson last night stressed the importance of agreement on the European army at the Lisbon NATO conference when he met Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden here, usually reliable sources said.

Mr. Acheson was said to have emphasized that the tension between France and Germany which threatens to impede the setting up of the European defence community must be straightened out in the forthcoming London talks on the German problem.

Both he and Mr. Eden joined to visit West German Chancellor Adenauer during the week-end. A decision on whether Acheson will attend the ministerial conference will be taken at the first session of the Big Three Foreign Ministers' talks on Saturday.

Adenauer arrived in London at noon today to attend the Royal funeral on Friday. French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman, who arrived in London this morning, is also expected to have private contact with Mr. Eden before the Foreign Ministers' conference opens.

Mr. Churchill presided tonight over a Cabinet meeting which discussed the briefing of the Foreign Secretary for the forthcoming Lisbon meeting of the NATO Council. It was learned that the Cabinet took no decision about cancelling the Foreign Affairs debate suspended when the King died.

14 Iraqi Communists Escape from Prison

Fourteen Iraqi Communists escaped from prison in Faimour Kot of Amara, in southern Iraq, after digging a tunnel from their cells to beyond the prison walls, the newspaper "El Akhbar" reported today in Baghdad.

Nine of the 14 had escaped once before, following their original detention last month, and were only recently re-arrested.

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THE WORKING WEEK Anti-Inflation and Anti-Climax

By S. ELIAHU

IN his speech to the Knesset on the country's economic position, the Prime Minister admitted that he had no surprises to announce. This in itself was hardly surprising, as for several days the papers had been predicting what the Government would do, and they were mostly right. But nevertheless the public was expecting something more dramatic to boost morale and to help restore confidence.

Although the Government Information Service, the press and the radio gave due prominence to what one paper called Israel's "N.E.P." — New Economic Policy — the man in the street was puzzled. He was not particularly interested in Mr. Ben Gurion's able and comprehensive review of economic development during the past three years — which took up over three-quarters of the Prime Minister's speech. What he wanted to know were the details which followed the words: "The Cabinet has therefore decided..."

Although the Prime Minister, the radio and the press did their best to explain the implications of these measures, the average man found it hard to translate into practical and personal terms such economic phrases as "multiple exchange rates," "added value," "cost plus," and "anti-inflationary measures."

After the weeks of top secret discussions, of lights burning late into the night in the Prime Minister's Office, of veiled, yet apparently significant comments at Ministerial level, of hectic statistical preparations, everybody anticipated sweeping changes to rally the nation. Perhaps some statement was needed such as recently shook the British: "Unless something is done at once, we will be bankrupt by August!" As one man said: "We expected a kick in the pants, but this was an anti-climax."

The effects of Wednesday's speech by the Prime Minister promise to be far-reaching, but the usual dynamite which Israeli citizens have come to expect from Mr. Ben Gurion seemed this time to have been set with a time-fuse which has only just begun to tick.

Going Up
 Judging from his comments, the man in the street seems afraid that the old state of affairs will continue: prices will go up. Well that's nothing new! Pay increases will lag behind rising prices? During the past year salaries have not gone up. Non-payment imports will be extended? Well the importers have made big profits on that before; now their profits will be even larger.

The abolition of the "parallel dollar" which till now had to be paid by importers of building materials and some other "non-payment" goods, will cost the Treasury at least \$10m. a year in foreign currency. In the first eleven months of 1961, the value of "non-payment" imports totalled \$22.7m. compared to \$15.2m. during the corresponding period of 1960.

Three kinds of goods are included in "non-payment" imports: gifts (\$4m. in the 11 months of 1960; \$4.9m. in 1961); goods brought in by immigrants (\$2.7m. in 1960; \$2.1m. in 1961) and capital transfers (\$9.2m. in 1960; \$11.7m. in 1961 — all figures are for the first eleven months only). As the "parallel dollar" is paid only for the goods in capital transfers category, the government's income from this came to \$9m. in the first eleven months of 1961, plus \$2m. from the customs duties on gift parcels and gift certificates.

Rich Resources
 In his speech the Prime Minister also mentioned the rich natural resources of the Negev, which are believed to be a great source of Israel's wealth. This was given even greater stress by the Minister of Agriculture and Development in his recent speech in Haifa, where he spoke about iron, phosphates,



"It says that in a two-page paper he's afraid he can't keep the inflationary spiral within bounds."

copper, ball clay, glass-sand, manganese and other minerals. In 10 to 15 years, he claimed, there will be large exports of these minerals, and of goods manufactured from them.

Overoptimism, however, in seeing the Negev as Israel's Eldorado is treated with some scepticism by international experts who consider that many of the minerals cannot be exploited commercially. The known deposits of manganese-ore, for example, are said to be small — perhaps only tens of thousands of tons — while prospects of copper are even smaller. The deposits of ball clay will be plentiful and excellent for ceramics, are not the right quality for high-grade china ware. There are large quantities of phosphates in the Negev in the form of calcium and magnesium phosphates. To produce phosphorus from these deposits is an extremely costly operation, which requires large quantities of imported sulphuric acid.

Municipal Finances
 While the government was calculating its problems this week in hundreds of millions of dollars, the three largest municipalities had their own budgets to worry about.

Tel Aviv's estimates, presented to the Municipality by Mr. Rokach, will increase by almost one third, from IL10.6m. to about IL13.6m. because of the dangerous inflationary state of the country, and because of the increased municipal services.

In Haifa the proposed 1962-63 budget totals IL5,272,000, a rise of about IL1m. over last year. The chief reason is the large increase in the number of school children; while tax payers, just grumbling at the general tax which hits the worker at the same rate as the manufacturer, will show little enthusiasm for the 60 percent increase in rates which the Municipality proposed. The Mayor of Haifa may perhaps succeed in convincing the male population (who are formally, at least, the actual tax-payers) about the necessity of the increase in rates, but he will have a hard job if the husbands are aroused by irate wives who are now engaged in an all-out war against the proposed ban on hanging laundry in front of houses. Housewives argue that they don't want to disfigure the town, but there is no other place to dry the weekly wash.

While the other two main cities announced their 1962/63 budgets, the Jerusalem Municipality Council got ready to hear Mayor Shragai announce, retroactively, the 1961/62 budget. This fantastic one-year lag is, however, not the only consequence of the fierce, but often petty political wrangling that has been in progress for over a year between the Mayor's right-wing majority coalition and the left-wing opposition. It seems that both sides considered their political struggle to be more important than their responsibilities to the City. The ever increasing demand for reform of the present administration, voiced by coalition and opposition papers, seems to be too weak to ease the Honourable Councilors out of the leather-cushioned seats round the horse-shoe table of the Town Hall.

SITTING ON THE FENCE

By NATHANIEL GUBBINS

THE war between walkers and motorists is almost as bitter and primitive as the war between men and women. There are two schools of thought on the question. One believes that all motorists are devils and all walkers are angels.

The other believes that all motorists are angels and all walkers are devils. It depends on whether you are driving a car or dodging one.

I am inclined to the theory that most of them are neither angels nor devils, but just plain idiots.

Therefore, when framing new regulations, the obvious thing is to invite the aid of a mental specialist who will certify the lot, walkers and motorists, and leave the country safe for sane leaders who hate walking and driving and merely want to eat, sleep, drink, and lounge about.

Stuffing a Colonel
 A Colonel (I have forgotten his name) living somewhere in England has probably made himself extremely unpopular with animal lovers by stating that stuffed cats placed in a field scare away crows better than anything.

I suppose I shall be unpopular with colonel lovers if I suggest that stuffed colonels would be even better.

In appearance they are much more frightening than cats, especially if you can get hold of those with luminous noses.

The cost of stuffing a colonel is about 110, including caviare and champagne.

It's Not Only Ducks That Waddle

"Women begin to waddle at the age of 32," Professor observation in woman's page.

Ever since the child could toddle, she had been inclined to waddle.

Though lessons in deportment later kept her just a little straighter Middle age, the birth of twins sent her rocking on her pins.

She wobbled so that folks, of course, nicknamed her "The Rocking Horse."

Now, at the age of fifty-three, she staggers like a ship at sea.

Reeling through the street at night, A derelict without a light, It's more than one can do, we feel.

To keep her on an even keel, Indeed, it's now our fondest hope.

To fit her with a gyroscope.

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PORTUGAL PLANS INVITATION TO TREATY Spain Waits for NATO Move

By RICHARD MOWBRER

MADRID. — SPAIN'S friend and ally, Portugal, is planning to propose the inclusion of Spain into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, according to reliable sources here. The proposal is scheduled to be made at the NATO conference in Lisbon this month on the plea that geographically Spain has great strategic value both as an Atlantic and a Mediterranean country.

As host-nation to the NATO conference, Portugal feels qualified and justified in putting in a good word for Spain. Since the earliest days of the Spanish civil war Portugal's relations with General Franco have been very close. The two Iberian neighbours are profoundly Catholic, their regimes have certain points of similarity and they are bound together by a mutual security pact signed during the Second World War.

Portugal's Role
 Members of the Portuguese government, or persons close to it, have in recent weeks publicly aired the idea that Spain should be incorporated into NATO.

Research in this direction has been intensified and completed. The coordination of different scientific, technical and technological instances is highly desirable.

The second question will be tackled the earliest the fruits will appear.

Scientific Council's Reply
 To the Editor of The POST
 Sir, — The material referred to as "kaolin" is not indeed kaolin, but a superior grade of ball clay. We have been using the word "kaolin" in Hebrew for want of another name for this mineral. Kaolin is imported from abroad, and the Israel mineral cannot be used as a substitute for all purposes.

The peat deposits in the Huleh have been estimated as being the equivalent of at least a million tons of crude oil, and there is reason to believe that they contain ten times as much as this. It is true that Huleh peat can, with proper treatment, be used as a superior grade of organic fertilizer. This does not obviate its use as fuel, even though the ash content of peat is between 25-35 per cent. As for the use of peat for agricultural purposes, research in this direction is being done and has yielded good results.

Yours etc,
 S. SAMBURY
 Director, Research Council Jerusalem, January 31.

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into NATO. When the Portuguese National Assembly voted its approval of the inclusion of Greece and Turkey, deputy Colares Pereira stood up and referred to what he called "the absurd absence of Spain." Lecturing on Portugal's role in the Atlantic pact, the former director-general of finance, Alberto Xavier, expressed the view that NATO had erred by excluding Spain.

These utterances among others have been listened to with interest by the Spanish government and recorded in the controlled press. But up to now Spain has professed no desire to become a member of NATO. In fact the attitude in Madrid is that a direct bilateral economic and military accord with the United States is preferable. There would be a lot of opposition to Spain's incorporation into NATO is responsible for this view. At any rate nobody here, and that includes Spanish government officials, believes that Spain would be accepted into the Atlantic alliance at this time, even if the United States should feel inclined to push a Portuguese proposal to that effect.

Nevertheless Spain seems to be taking some, though ostensibly aloof, interest in the Lisbon proceedings. A few days ago a leading commentator on international affairs, Pedro Gomez Aparicio, had this to say about the impending NATO conference: "It is possible that, following Churchill's visit to Washington, Britain will not oppose our admission to NATO, and that despite French scruples and Spain's repugnance, Spain's entry in the organization will be decided upon."

This remark has attracted notice here because Gomez Aparicio is known to be close to Spain's Foreign Minister, Martin Artajo.

Franco's Brother
 Spanish government officials admit that "there is something in the air" in Portugal on the subject of Spain's inclusion in NATO but their line is that Spain will not speak unless spoken to. This is in accord with Spanish policy in general: let other powers make the advance, as the United States did by dispatching the late Admiral Forrest P. Sherman to Madrid last summer to propose economic aid for Spain in exchange for bases; as France did recently by suggesting, through General Augustin Guillaume, that Spain and France get together on Moroccan questions.

By letting others make the first move Spain avoids the risk of meeting with a rebuff which would be damaging to national pride.

At Lisbon General Franco will have a well-placed observer of the NATO proceedings: his own brother Nicolas, who is Spanish Ambassador to Portugal.

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JERUSALEM ART NOTES

Figurines by Rosa Sperling

"THE second 'Special Window' at Saenger's Art Shop, off Dan Yehuda Street, features a display of new dolls by Rosa Sperling. 'Dolls' is hardly an adequate term for these little works of art, even if they are modelled in the traditional materials of doll-making. 'Ethnological Figurines' would be a better description, but all too devoid of the captivating charm of this statuary in silk and wool, embroidery and finely formed plaster.

Rosa Sperling is a newcomer from Holland, whose work was first exhibited last summer in the Convention Centre. She has now organized her Holon workshop on a commercial basis, but her artistic sense is obviously too strong for standardization. Luckily, no two figurines are absolutely alike. All the 'Israel types' are 'originals' in the best sense of the word. They are not only tasteful and humorous, the tiny

heads formed in the exquisite Tanagra tradition, but also designed with the observation of a skilled ethnologist. The 'Rabbi from Hadramaut' and the 'Yemenite Bride', for instance, would delight any serious collector.

One has to mention in our time of surprising prices: The figurines cost little more than any of the poorly manufactured, stereotyped dolls in our toy shops.

Th. F. M.



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TO ALL IRAQIS A general meeting will be held on Wed. Feb. 20, 1962, at 6 p.m. at Zion Synagogue, Rehov Kalisher, Tel Aviv, to elect a new Election Committee which will prepare and supervise the election of an Executive for the Association.

2) Elect a Temporary Committee to run the affairs of the Association pending the election of the permanent committee.

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Life at Kiryat Montparnasse

By BARNET LITVINOFF

WITHIN the sixth arrondissement of Paris, in the apex of the triangle formed by the intersection of Boulevard Raspail, Boulevard Montparnasse, and Boulevard de la Concorde, can be sampled a slice of life beckoning every serious student of the Jewish problem—and some not so serious. For this area is the camping-ground of a group of people, among whom is a large proportion of Jews, whose existence seems a challenge to every known law of human behaviour, and following a recent visit to the district I shall never again respect the writers whose job it is to produce sociological and historical tomes on the Jewish question unless they devote at least one chapter to the superlatives of the Kiryat Montparnasse, the Hitlerian epoch, the World War, the establishment of the State of Israel, and the crashing down of the Iron Curtain, sit, as they always did, winter and summer, drinking coffee in these three bulwarks of Bohemia: the cafe Dôme, Compole, and Rotonde.

Dôme from Home
Best favoured of the three, and most of whose habitués have been Jewish since the days of Modigliani, Soutine, and Panqueine, is of course the Dôme, where the clientele (if that is the correct description of customers who loiter for four hours over a single, tiny cup) is cosmopolitan only in the pauper sense, of which the two commonest are the Israeli and the Russian. For Jewish artists, artists, students, literati, and bohemia of all sorts it is a Dôme from home. There you will not only sink deep in the current controversy between abstract art and figurative art; you will find yourself arguing about Matisse and Matisse, and hear finely drawn definitions of Zionism since the establishment of the State. Someone will surely be expert on the subject of the Jewish population of the Soviet Union, or on America's Middle East policy. The Dôme is an almost exact replica of a boulevard café in Tel Aviv, right down to the churkish, apathetic waiters and even to Tel Aviv's propensity for splinter movements. (An unimpeachable witness swears that he overheard a political controversy end with this terrible finality: "If the Magazines persist in such arguments, we are going over the roof and from now on will spend our evenings at the Rotonde.")

The Dôme is not Montparnasse, and Montparnasse is not Paris. I say this lest the impression be created that Bohemia is largely Jewish. But it is to Montparnasse, with its associations with the Impressionists, and to the Dôme, with its commanding position at the crossroads of the quarter, that the Jewish artists regard Chana Orloff, perhaps to-day the best of all French sculptors.

queens it there almost every night of the week, looking more like a great big homey granny than an artist, and quite unspoiled by success. She knows but two languages well, French and Hebrew—the two most useful, in the Dôme—and is just now resting after completing the massive bronze monument intended for erection at Ein Gev, worked in her favourite mother-and-child theme, but this time the child symbolizing the young defenders of Israel who died in their year of survival.

Over there, chewing peanuts and never losing interest in the passing scene, sits Mané Katz, looking with his mane of white hair like a cheeky Einstein. Another link with the past is the athletic Kislak, close friend of Modigliani, occupying the same corner seat as he did in the roaring thirties. With him you can be sure, is Allan, the North-African Jew often referred to because of his complexion, as "the Berber."

Leading Artists
These are the leading French Jewish artists, but there are not enough of them to fill the Dôme's red-upholstered benches to the density expected by the management. It is the Israeli, with their swift assessment of absorptive capacity, who occupy most of the remaining space. They are an insoluble riddle. They are students, and their country has little foreign currency to allocate for pilgrimages to the heights of Parnassus. The Israeli artists attract the Israeli school-teachers.



THEATRE NOTES

Turkum's Characters

THE one-man play "Back to Life" by the Brazilian playwright, Pedro Bloch, with which Turkum made his first appearance on an Israeli stage at the Tel Aviv Theatre last week, represents a force of stage-craft. In the first two acts of the exquisite three-act play, a sick actor lies unseen to the audience on a couch in an extremely improvised room, while a restaurant owner and then a violinist tell of his life and family.

Of course Turkum plays all the characters, but not in the cheap Freudian manner. In Turkum's Turkish translation, the characters are delicately and even amusingly portrayed. The music, composed by Turkum, is a series of "telephone calls," each having on itself, the effect of a "telephone call," and each being a thoroughly professional piece of music.

Rehearsals in Chinese
The eminent pianist, Professor W. Y. Tonn, who was born in Berlin, and lived in Shanghai, from 1909 till 1949, where he taught at the Djinan State University and founded the Shanghai Conservatory of Music, is now in Tel Aviv, and is now rehearsing for the Chamber Theatre's next production, the Chinese play "Lady Precious Stream." To give the cast a taste of Chinese culture he invites them to his home at Hadar Yosef, which is filled with Chinese paintings and sculpture. He is also present at rehearsals to check the details of the various ceremonies of greeting, manners at meals, and of costumes. Four classical songs will be sung in Chinese.

The play is written by S. I. Hsing, who lives in London, and the Hebrew translation by Nathan Alterman. The play is a comedy, and is a satire on the life of the Chinese in the 19th century. It will be produced in the Tel Aviv Theatre, and will be a most interesting and amusing production.

Music Without Words
This Sunday night broadcast needs an overhaul. There should be a rehearsal of the program, and it should be rehearsed throughout the country. The program is expected to provide a most interesting and amusing production. The program is expected to provide a most interesting and amusing production.

neides of the commentator and a speech on behalf of "Mifal Hayayis," as the prize was presented to the winning couple. This feature is particularly interesting, and is a most interesting and amusing production. The program is expected to provide a most interesting and amusing production.

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